February 15

John 13:4-17

“Deeper Meaning of Feet-washing”

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5 After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus

answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord:
and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master,
have washed your feet; ye also
ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an
example, that ye should do
as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you,
The servant is not greater than
his lord; neither he that is sent
greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things,
happy are ye if ye do them.

So, what is the deeper meaning of feet-washing?

From these words of Jesus, we can see that he wanted Believers to have a certain type of relationship with one another. He plainly stated, the washing of one another's feet was, "an example" of how Believers were to behave with each other.

We, true Believers, are to humble ourselves mutually. We are to understand that if he (the Messiah) could do it, we (servants) should also humble ourselves to the low

degree of washing one another's feet.

The point was to show there should be no, as it's said, "Big I(s) and Little You(s)". It was to remind us that we are all Christ's servants. We should not practice a lifestyle of lordship over one another.

Unfortunately, that message was not passed down in practice in mainstream

so-called Christianity where there is, most commonly, the big preacher and little members; the high-and-mighty leaders vs. the lowly followers.

And though few participate in physical feet-washing, which is usually done yearly, whenever done at all, many tend to completely miss the underlying

and intended message
behind the practice.

That is evident by the
hierarchy and disunity
shown throughout the year.

Nonetheless, biblical
feet-washing symbolizes
a commonality of brothers
and sisters in Christ.

It's much deeper than
just participating in a
human-made ceremony
for a New Year.